

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-05 SS-15 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY IO/HDC:EPNOZIGLIA:BGR

APPROVED BY IO - W.B. BUFFUM

DHEW/OIH:RBELMONT (INFORMED)

TA/H(AID):JLSTOCKARD

ONR:AJEMERY

OES:MBEAUBIEN

AID/PPC:LLAUFER

IO:RDMOREY

----- 061430

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO, SWEL, SCHISTO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CALL FOR CONCERTED
CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL SCHISTOSOMIASIS

1. IN HIS SEPTEMBER 23 ADDRESS TO THE 29TH SESSION OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARY KISSINGER STATED THAT "IN
THE COMING MONTHS THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO INITIATE: A
CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL THE DISEASE WHICH AFFLICTS
AND DEBILITATES OVER 200 MILLION PEOPLE IN 70 COUNTRIES --
SCHISTOSOMIASIS." THIS PARASITIC DISEASE, IN WHICH MAN
IS THE PARASITE'S PRINCIPAL HOST AND CERTAIN SPECIES OF
SNAILS THE INTERMEDIATE HOSTS, IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF
DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH WATER RESOURCES WHICH ARE BEING
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PROLIFERATED AND SPREAD BY THE MULTIPLICATION OF WATER

RESOURCE PROJECTS (WATER IMPOUNDMENT, HYDROELECTRIC DAMS, IRRIGATION SCHEMES) THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPING WORLD. OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS WHO HAVE FOSTERED RESEARCH AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THE DISEASE AND HAVE ASSISTED GOVERNMENTS IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING CONTROL PROGRAMS. THIS MESSAGE DETAILS RECENT STEPS TAKEN WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FEASIBLE PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST THIS WIDESPREAD DEBILITATING DISEASE.

2. IN LATE SEPTEMBER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) MOREY AND DHEW OFFICIALS DISCUSSED SCHISTOSOMIASIS WITH DR. MAHLER, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. MAHLER WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OUR COLLABORATION ON THIS PROBLEM, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A VERY SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM. HE UNDERTOOK TO HAVE WHO TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS DEVELOP A PAPER ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH US AND AT WHO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN JANUARY. ON OCTOBER 25, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF HEW, DR. CHARLES EDWARDS, WROTE TO DR. MAHLER EXPRESSING OUR FEELING THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DEALING WITH SCHISTOSOMIASIS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AND COORDINATED BY WHO. DR. EDWARDS INVITED DR. MAHLER'S VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND OTHER WATERBORNE DISEASES AND OFFERED U.S. SUPPORT. AT A MEETING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 31 THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO, DR. BERNARD, REITERATED WHO'S INTEREST IN LEADING A SCHISTOSOMIASIS PROGRAM, CHARACTERIZING ITS CONTROL AS SECOND ONLY IN IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTROL OF MALARIA.

3. TENTATIVE THINKING IN THE USG IS THAT INITIAL WORK SHOULD RELATE TO SURVEYING NATURE OF THE CHALLENGE AND WORK ALREADY IN PROGRESS, AND ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES. THIS WOULD INCLUDE: REVIEW OF EXISTING AND PLANNED RESEARCH; IDENTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN PLANNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF NEW RESEARCH; DISCUSSION ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE; COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; UNCLASSIFIED

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AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO ANALYZE PRESENT STATE OF ART AND TO IDENTIFY GAPS WHICH NOW NEED TO BE FILLED. ACCORDINGLY A PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD BE DEVELOPED SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED IN THE DIRECTIONS INDICATED. WE HOPE THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA, JAPAN, EGYPT, U.K.,
-- AND BRAZIL, WHICH HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE

EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD, WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE AND COOPERATE IN THE TASKS REFERRED TO ABOVE. OUR IDEAS WILL BE DEVELOPED AND REFINED IN LIGHT OF DRAFT PAPER NOW BEING PREPARED BY WHO AND DISCUSSIONS WHICH WE MAY SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE EXPECT THAT INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD IN JANUARY 1975 AND THAT MAJOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEM WILL FOLLOW IN MAY AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY.

4. NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT 3 AND THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH HAVE LONG BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT ON VARIOUS SCHISTOSOMIASIS PROJECTS IN BOTH THE BASIC RESEARCH AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AREAS. IN ADDITION TO THE CAIRO RESEARCH LABORATORY (NAMRU-3), THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY HAS OTHER RESEARCH LABORATORIES CONDUCTING WORK ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND (NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE), TAIPEI, TAIWAN (NAMRU-2), AND JAKARTA, INDONESIA (NAMRU-2, JAKARTA DETACHMENT). WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF ONR ON BEHALF OF THE U.S., THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF EGYPT IS PLANNING AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN CARIO IN OCTOBER 1975. WHO HAS BEEN INVITED TO CO-SPONSOR THE MEETING AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. WE ARE ENCOURAGING THIS ACTIVITY WHICH IS IN LINE WITH OUR OVERALL EFFORT. HEW ALSO HAS AN ACTIVE SCHISTOSOMIASIS PROJECT IN EGYPT.. WE WILL USE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN WHO, FAO, UNEP THE LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS IS ENCOURAGED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL COORDINATING ROLE OF WHO.

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5. THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPONSORED A MEETING AT TULANE IN FEBRUARY '72 WHICH PRODUCED A VALUABLE REPORT. AID HAS BEEN REVIEWING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SMALL RESEARCH EFFORT WITH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING THE EFFORTS OF TULANE UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE THAT WOULD FOCUS ON TRAINING PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND OTHER PARASITIC DISEASES UTILIZING THE RESEARCH AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES OF BRAZIL AND TULANE UNIVERSITY.

6. AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY IO/HDC HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE U.S. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SCHISTOSOMIASIS. AID, HEW AND THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ARE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP. WE ALSO

PLAN TO BE IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS PRIVATE GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE FIELD; FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL BE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLARK FOUNDATION IN LATE NOVEMBER.

7. THE U.S. MISSION IN GENEVA IS REQUESTED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHO AS THAT ORGANIZATION ASSUMES ITS

COORDINATING ROLE. U.S. EMBASSY NAIROBI SHOULD INFORM

UNEP OF NATURE OF COORDINATING ROLE WE ENVISAGE FOR WHO AND OF OUR DESIRE SEE UNEP PLAY ACTIVE PART IN CAMPAIGN. OTHER POSTS MAY USE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS TELEGRAM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES FROM THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY IN THE FUTURE BE REQUESTING SELECTED POSTS TO MAKE APPROACHES TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS ON PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE SCHISTOSOMIASIS CAMPAIGN OR WITH RESPECT TO ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY HOST GOVERNMENTS. INGERSOLL

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